

COMPUTER SYSTEM WITH GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE
INCLUDING SPRING-LOADED ENCLOSURES

ABSTRACT

5 A new behavior in a graphical user interface allows
the user to open and close enclosures, while dragging an
object. When the user pauses, gestures, or rolls over a
hot spot on top of an icon or text representing a closed
enclosure, a temporary window for the closed enclosure is
10 "sprung open" to allow the user to browse inside the
enclosure and possible open another enclosure contained
within the temporary window. This process can be carried
on throughout a hierarchy of windows as the user browses
for a destination window for the drag operation. All of
15 the temporary windows except the destination are closed
when the mouse button is released, signaling the end of
a drag. The user may close sprung open windows by simply
moving the cursor out of the sprung open window, or by
making some other gesture. If an enclosure to be sprung
20 open was previously open on the desktop, the previously
opened window may zoom over to the current mouse
position, and then return to its original position when
the user mouse is out of the window.